WEIR & PARTNERS LLP

A Pennsylvania Limited Liability Partnership

By: Walter Weir, Jr., Esquire

Emily A Busch, Esquire

WWeir@weirpartners.com

EBusch@weirpartners.com

Attorney Id. Nos. 23137 / 311569

The Widener Building, Suite 500

1339 Chestnut Street

Philadelphia, PA 19107

(215) 665-8181

(215) 665-8464 (fax)

Attorneys for Defendants and Third Party Plaintiffs

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

TRANEN CAPITAL ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FUND, LTD. AND THE LEO GROUP, LLC,

Plaintiffs,

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v. : Civil Action No. 11-cv-7591 (NLH)(AMD)

SOVEREIGN BANK, KIMBERLY HICKS-FINNERTY, AND EDWARD A.

GREEN

Defendants

SOVEREIGN BANK, N.A., KIMBERLY HICKS-FINNERTY AND EDWARD A. GREEN

Third Party Plaintiffs,:

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ANTHONY FAIOLA AND DAVID : THIRD PARTY COMPLAINT OF

CHALMERS : SOVEREIGN BANK, N.A.

Third Party : DIRECTED TO ANTHONY FAIOLA
Defendants. : AND DAVID CHALMERS

:

Sovereign Bank, N.A. ("Sovereign") hereby files this Third Party Complaint Against

David Chalmers and Anthony Faiola (collectively "Third Party Defendants"), and in support

thereof, avers:

## THE PARTIES

- 1. Defendant/Third Party Plaintiff Sovereign is a national banking association with an address at 824 North Market Street, Suite 100, Wilmington, DE 19801.
- 2. Upon information and belief, Third Party Defendant Anthony Faiola ("Faiola") is an adult individual who resides or maintains an address at 721 Beachwood Avenue, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002.
- Upon information and belief, Third Party Defendant David Chalmers
   ("Chalmers") is an adult individual with an address of 323 Haddon Avenue, Westmont, New Jersey 08108.

## JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the claims set forth in this Third-Party Complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 in that Sovereign is a citizen of Delaware, Faiola and Chalmers are citizens of New Jersey, and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.
- 5. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) in that a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claims asserted in this Third Party Complaint occurred in this judicial district.

## COUNT I COMMON LAW CONTRIBUTION AND INDEMNIFICATION

6. On February 8, 2012, Tranen Capital Alternative Investment, LTD ("Tranen") and The Leo Group, LLC ("Leo") (collectively "Plaintiffs") filed their Second Amended Complaint (the "Complaint") against Sovereign and Sovereign's two notary-employees, Kimberly Hicks-Finnerty and Edward Green (collectively "Defendants"). A true and correct

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copy of the Complaint is attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated by reference as though set forth at length herein.

- 7. Plaintiffs claim that the Defendants violated statutory notary requirements by (a) notarizing the purported signature of William M. Kwasnik for LSBP on the Purchase Agreement outside of Kwasnik's presence as a favor to Sovereign customer Anthony Faiola; (b) backdating documents including the Letter as a favor to Sovereign customer David Chalmers; and (c) making "other inappropriate concessions" to assist Defendants' customers.
- 8. In Count One of their Complaint, Plaintiffs assert claims of fraudulent misrepresentation against all Defendants based on the notarization of W. Kwasnik's signature on the Purchase Agreement and the Chalmers Letter. Sovereign's alleged liability in Count One is based exclusively on a theory of *respondeat superior*.
- 9. In Count Two, Plaintiffs charge all Defendants with negligence for (a) Hicks-Finnerty's alleged notarization of W. Kwasnik's signature on the Purchase Agreement; (b) Hicks-Finnerty and Green's alleged backdating of their notarizations of the Chalmers Letter; (c) alleged violations of the New Jersey notary statute and manual; (d-e) alleged failure of Sovereign to supervise and train Hicks-Finnerty and Green; (f) alleged failure to maintain adequate records in notary logs; and (g) Sovereign's alleged "encouragement or willful indifference" to the Notaries' purported violation of the New Jersey notary statute and manual.
- 10. In Count Three, Plaintiffs again allege that Sovereign is liable for failing to properly train and supervise the Notaries and for failing to maintain adequate records in their respective notary logs.
- 11. Sovereign denies all the allegations in the Complaint and incorporates herein by reference its Motion to Dismiss, attached hereto as Exhibit "B".

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12. If the allegations of Plaintiffs' Complaint are true, which Sovereign denies, then

Third Party Defendants are alone liable to Plaintiffs and/or are liable over to Sovereign for

indemnify and/or contribution for all losses incurred or suffered by Plaintiffs.

13. If the allegations of Plaintiffs' Complaint are true, which Sovereign denies, then

the Third Party Defendants would have acted in willful and wanton bad faith in asking the

notaries to notarize signatures which were know by them to be false and fraudulent.

WHEREFORE, in the event that Sovereign is held liable to Plaintiffs, then Sovereign

demands judgment over and against Third Party Defendants, Anthony Faiola and David

Chalmers, for the full amount of any such loss, or for indemnity and/or contribution, together

with costs of suit, attorney's fees, and for such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

WEIR & PARTNERS LLP

A Pennsylvania Limited Liability Partnership

By: /s/ Walter Weir, Jr., Esquire

Walter Weir, Jr., Esquire

Dated: May 31, 2012

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